

STAFF REPORT

TO: Planning & Economic Development Committee **DATE:** 8/8/16

FROM: Todd Okolichany, AICP, LEED AP ND, Planning & Urban Design Director

PREPARED BY: Stacy Merten, Project Manager and Historic Resources Director

SUBJECT: Comprehensive Plan Update Status Report

Summary

This is a status report from the Department of Planning and Urban Design on the Comprehensive Plan update for the City of Asheville.

Background

The Comprehensive Plan is a tool that the City uses to establish a high-level vision to guide policy decisions over a 10-15 year period. The update to the Comprehensive Plan will provide a visionary framework to help guide Asheville's long term development and provide an essential tool that will be used across the City's many departments.

Update

City staff continued to work with Skidmore Owings and Merrill (SOM), on data collection for the Assessment Phase of the project in anticipation of delivery of the final assessment report in mid- August. Staff drafted and collected input from the Technical Team, highlighting progress on existing relevant plans that will feed into the Comprehensive Plan. The Planning Team also initiated discussion regarding the format, layout, naming and colors of the final document; although no final decisions have been made.

Staff worked with the Communication and Public Engagement (CAPE) team and SOM to create a more inviting feel for the City's Comprehensive Plan web presence and will continue to refine and add to the web page as the project moves forward. Chipley Consulting has begun community outreach and will continue to meet with neighborhood organizations and other stakeholder groups throughout the month of August to invite public participation and input via the community survey, which has been posted on *Open City Hall*. A Spanish version of the survey is under development and will be posted in the next few days.

The final three members of the Advisory Committee were appointed by the Asheville City Council on July 26, 2016. The Planning Team is in the process of preparing for the initial meeting with the Advisory Committee, which will be held on August 11, 2016. This will wrap up the Assessment Phase of the Project and efforts will next focus on the Strategy and Vision Phase.

Financial Impact/Resources

The Comprehensive Plan contract was approved with a total budget not to exceed \$264,345.

2036 Council Vision

This Comprehensive Plan update aligns with the 2036 Council Vision in the following area:

- **A Well-Planned and Livable Community.** The Comprehensive Plan update aims to promote community through thoughtful, resident-led planning that will result in strategies related to land use, multimodal transportation, economic development, infrastructure, housing, livability, place-making, open space, streetscapes, climate change, sustainability and resiliency.

Recommendation

Not applicable. The information provided in this report is for information purposes only.